

Overview

SERVICE TO BE PROVIDED

The program was established in 2002, through federal legislation to support unpaid family caregivers who provide most of the long term care in the United States. The State Unit on Aging works with Area Agencies on Aging and community and local service provider organizations to provide family caregiver support services including:

- Information on existing community resources and programs
- One-on-one counseling, support and assistance in gaining access to services
- Support groups
- Caregiver education and training
- Respite care to allow caregivers to take a short break from their caregiving responsibilities
- Supplemental services to complement the care provided by caregivers. These services may include incontinence supplies, chore or homemaker services, emergency response monitoring, nutritional supplements, assistive technology, transportation, or home modifications such as grab bars or wheelchair ramps.

CLIENT GROUPS TO BE SERVED

Two populations are targeted.

1. Adult family caregivers of any age caring for frail or disabled adults 60 years of age or older, and
2. Older individuals, 60 years or older, raising grandchildren who are not more than 18 years of age.

Priority for services is given to older individuals with greatest social and economic need, (with particular attention to low-income older individuals) and older individuals providing care and support to person with developmental disabilities.

METHOD OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Family caregivers across the state may contact the Family Caregiver Advocate at their Area Agency on Aging to obtain information, one-on-one assistance and support, and caregiver training. Eligible caregivers may also obtain a mini-grant, of approximately \$500, to purchase respite and/or supplemental services and receive reimbursement later or they may access services through vouchers.

NUMBER OF CLIENTS TO BE SERVED

Funds should allow more than 15,000 unduplicated family caregivers to receive services through the Family Caregiver Support Program in fiscal year 2008. In addition to information, training, individual counseling, and support groups, it is expected that more than 1,600 caregivers will receive a grant to purchase respite services from the provider of their choice and that approximately 900 people will receive a small grant to purchase supplemental services.

GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

Caregivers from all 46 counties will have access to services. Long distance caregivers from other states and countries who are coordinating services for family members in South Carolina may also receive information and assistance by contacting their Family Caregiver Advocate.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Continue to serve as a resource for a portion of the estimated 416,214 unpaid family caregivers in South Carolina providing more than 446 million hours of care annually at a market value of \$4,423 million dollars per year.
- Continue to improve the quality and availability of information to families and informal caregivers in South Carolina.
- Continue to provide counseling and support targeted to each individual caregiver.